

REVIEWS.

AS BRAVE AS THE BRAVEST.*

THE case Dr. Cooper here relates is as remarkable as any he has yet published in illustration of the action of remedies given in single dose, or single impact, allowed to exhaust their action unrepeatd and undisturbed. As the case was originally intended for our own pages we will give that part of the pamphlet which was intended for us.

“ A CASE OF CANCER—ARBOBIVITAL ACTION (*Helleborus Viridis* and *Helleborus fetidus*).

“ On October 20, 1899, a lady asked me if there was any use in trying to relieve a poor washerwoman of fifty-six who had been operated on three years before, colotomy having been performed owing to blockage of the rectum with cancerous growth. For three years this poor woman had kept nobly to her work, in spite of her infirmity, and now was obliged to take to her bed, owing to the bowels being again blocked, and for eight days she had been in frightful agony and bed-ridden.

“ I could elicit no particulars as to the variety of the cancer, but learned that further operative interference was declined. The only symptoms I could get were that she had suffered from great pain and depression.

“ This awful sense of depression is common to all the hellebores, taking often the form of great sinking in the pit of the chest ; and I therefore determined upon giving her *Helleb. viridis* φA.

“ On November 10th the lady came to tell me that after this woman had taken the dose a discharge came away from the bowel, and that in two days the bowels began moving and that she had again begun working as usual at hard laundry work. Naturally, I let the action set up continue, and gave nothing, and was not a little chagrined at hearing nothing further of my poor patient.

“ On July 17th of this year (1900), however, my lady friend returned to tell me that the poor woman had kept well at work all along, and her bowels had continued to act, but that boils had broken out about a month before on her neck, her thighs, and her shoulders, and that this made her feel very ill, though again better during this last week. Same dose repeated, of *Helleb. fetid.*

* *As Brave as the Bravest.* By Robert T. Cooper, M.A., M.D. London : C. Martin, 67, Wigmore Street, W.

“ On October 19, 1900, one year short of two days from the first dose, the lady came to say that the patient had volunteered to come and scrub her floors for her, and had felt wonderfully well in every way, though, of course, sadly inconvenienced by her infirmity.

“ What I claim in this case is simply this : that a bed-ridden woman with an artificial anus, necessitated by what was declared to be cancer, and for whom there was no hope whatever of recovery, received, after a single dose of *Helleb. vir.*, sufficient relief to enable her to resume work and to enjoy for an entire year the use of her bowels, where blockage by a cancerous mass had been declared to exist.”

For the rest of the story we must refer our readers to Dr. Cooper's pamphlet itself. It tells of a visit paid by Dr. Cooper with Dr. Jagielski to the home of the patient and of the heroic struggle with disease and poverty which was then revealed, and which drew from Dr. Cooper the admiring tribute placed at the head of this pamphlet. It is difficult to say which is the greater, the human interest or the therapeutic interest of the case. Dr. Cooper is not one of those practitioners who see only “ cases ” (“ interesting ” or otherwise) in his patients. They never cease to be human beings, no matter how “ interesting ” they may be as “ cases.”
